

I am writing to let you know broad federal access to individual's private emails is a very harmful proposal. There is no reason to spy on people who have not done anything wrong and who aren't even suspected of doing something wrong. The Fourth Amendment provides for searches and seizures. If law enforcement people suspect someone of doing something illegal, in theory they would have some sort of evidence or basis for their suspicion and they should get a warrant for the electronic surveillance of the individual in question. Broad snooping with no legitimate reason and no specific target is simply a violation of what makes this country the wonderful place it is. Creating regulations like this move us closer to being what we say we hate and when we do that, we let terrorists and criminals win. Giving in and creating overly broad snooping and spying mechanisms (I know, you probably prefer the word surveillance) shows a lack of creativity and a lack of sensitivity to the privacy of millions of Americans. There is no reason to punish the many for the actions of a few. Find the few and deal with them as appropriate. Leave the rest of us alone. That is the reason for the traditional law on searches and seizures and that law is adequate for the needs this proposed regulation targets. Law enforcement officials should not be hijacking private companies and forcing them to gather information or make available their resources for broad snooping purposes. There is no legitimate law enforcement purpose for reading, storing, or accessing millions of emails sent by the millions of law abiding citizens in this country. Our daily affairs are none of the government's business as long as we pay our taxes, raise our children, and conduct our affairs lawfully. And again, if there is evidence of someone behaving illegally, get a warrant. Regulations like the one proposed seem designed to circumvent the constitutional protections upon which this country is founded and that can only be counter productive in the long run.